

Message Text

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ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 VO-05 CA-01 /035 W

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P 271551Z FEB 78

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6491

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 03060

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, ICEM, AR

SUBJECT: ICEM ROLE IN RIGHT OF OPTION PROGRAM

REF: STATE 48118

1. IN RESPONSE REFTEL, ICEM DIRECTOR THOMAS HAS AGAIN CONFIRMED THAT ICEM IS PREPARED TO PLAY A ROLE IN THE RIGHT OF OPTION PROGRAM SIMILAR TO THAT IN THE PROGRAM FOR DETAINEES IN CHILE. HOWEVER, A FEW CLARIFICATIONS SHOULD BE MADE CONCERNING REFTEL.

2. AS CONCERNS CONTACT BETWEEN ICEM REP AND EMBASSY BUENOS AIRES, DIRECTOR STATED THAT REP HAD EARLIER APPROACHED EMBASSY TO EXPRESS ICEM'S PREPAREDNESS TO PLAY ACTIVE ROLE, BUT WAS CURRENTLY IN POSTURE OF AWAITING EMBASSY'S SIGNAL THAT RIGHT OF OPTION PROGRAM WAS ABOUT TO GET UNDERWAY AND ITS SERVICES COULD BE BROUGHT INTO PLAY. ICEM ALSO HAS HAD NO INFORMATION FROM OTHER EMBASSIES IN BUENOS AIRES REGARDING THOSE CASES THAT MIGHT BE OF INTEREST TO THEM, ALTHOUGH IT HAD PRIOR CONTACT WITH BELGIAN AMBASSADOR ON THIS SUBJECT AS CONCERNS BELGIUM AND EEC COUNTRIES. ACCORDING TO DIRECTOR, ICEM IS NOT MOVING AHEAD AT THIS TIME PENDING SUCH NOTIFICATION FRDM EMBASSIES. DIRECTOR NOTED, FURTHER, THAT IN CHILEAN CASE GOC ITSELF HAD ISSUED DECREE DESIGNATING ICEM AS CONFIDENTIAL

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AGENT TO HANDLE PROGRAM, BUT THAT THUS FAR ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT HAS NOT TAKEN SIMILAR ACTION.

3. ICEM DIRECTOR REPEATED EARLIER STATEMENT THAT, IF NEEDED, HE WOULD DISPATCH A SECOND ICEM REPRESENTATIVE TO ARGENTINA TO ASSIST IN THIS WORK.
VANDEN HEUVEL

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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